

U.S. Racial Politics: New Deal to the Present
Political Science 449
CRN: 35668
242 Gerlinger

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Course description:

In this course, we will examine the ways that race shaped the major political dynamics in the United States from the Great Depression to the present. We will analyze the relationship of race politics to New Deal social policy; World War II, the Cold War, civil rights and race liberation movements, the rise of the modern Right, immigration policy, and current cross-ethnic political coalitions, and the 2009 presidential election.

Materials:

There are two books and one packet for this course, all available in the bookstore. The books are *The Unsteady March*, by Philip Klinkner and Rogers Smith; and *When Affirmative Action Was White*, by Ira Katznelson. Other readings not in the course packet will be available on Blackboard, and are indicated as such.

Requirements:

1. **Seven in-class quizzes.** These quizzes will assess your comprehension of the assigned reading, lectures and class discussions. Some questions will be given in advance and you will prepare your answer to bring to class. The remaining questions will be given in class. Your lowest score will be dropped. No make-up quizzes are possible. **(50% of final grade)**
2. **Midterm in-class exam (25% of final grade)**
3. **Final take-home exam (25% of final grade)**
4. **Participation:** Students will be expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Constructive, informed, respectful participation that contributes directly to conversations about the course material will raise borderline grades; lack of participation may result in lower grades.

Policies:

Students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the professor soon. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

Class attendance. You will be expected to attend class. If you miss a class day on which a quiz is given, you must bring a doctor's note to re-take it. Unexcused absences will be taken into account in determining your class participation grade, regardless of the reason.

Regrading of materials. You may request regrading of materials that the instructors have graded. If you wish to make such a request, contact me for a copy of the regrading policy. You will be asked to provide a written explanation of why you wish to have the assignment regarded.

Plagiarism or cheating. This one's simple: don't do it. Don't even think about doing it. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's *words* or *ideas* without giving the original author credit by citing him or her. If you use someone else's language directly, you must use quotation marks. If you rely on another person's ideas in creating your argument, you must provide a citation. This is obviously required for research papers, but I will expect careful attention to citation in the argumentative essays as well. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please contact me before you submit the assignment for grading. If you plagiarize or cheat in this class, the **BEST** outcome you can hope to achieve is a failing grade. Ignorance will not provide a defense to the application of this policy.

Week One: Introduction: Race as a Political Phenomenon

Tuesday, 3/31

Course Introduction

Thursday, 4/2

- "Race and American Political Development"

- in-class Film: *Race: the Power of an Illusion*

Week Two: Race and the New Deal

Tuesday, 4/7

- "The New Deal" from Alan Brinkley, *American History: A Survey*

- Katznelson, preface and chapter 2

Thursday, 4/9

- Katznelson, chapters 3 and 4

Week Three: World War Two

Tuesday, 4/14

- Klinkner and Smith, chapters 5 and 6

Thursday, 4/16

- Ronald Takaki, "The Watershed of World War II: Democracy and Race" from *Strangers from a Distant Shore*.
- *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214 (1944)

Week Four: Cold War Civil Rights

Tuesday, 4/21

- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 7
- Mary Dudziak, "Telling Stories about Race and Democracy" from *Cold War Civil Rights*.

Thursday, 4/23

- Nikhil Pal Singh, "Decolonizing America" from *Black is a Country*
- Film: "Negroes With Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power"

Week Five: Black Liberation and state response

Tuesday, 4/28

- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 8
- Martin Luther King, Jr., "Give Us the Ballot and We Will Transform the South"
- Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet"

Thursday, 4/30

- Sydney Milkis, "The modern presidency, social movements and the administrative state: Lyndon Johnson and the civil rights movement" in *Race and American Political Development*

- Lyndon B. Johnson's Commencement Address at Howard University: "To Fulfill These Rights"

Week Six: The Politics of Backlash

Tuesday, 5/5

In-class midterm

- Naomi Murakawa, "The origins of the carceral crisis: racial order as "law and order in postwar American politics"

- Jonathan Reider, "The Rise of the 'Silent Majority.'"

Thursday, 5/7

- William Connolly, "Fundamentalism in America"

Week Seven: Antidiscrimination, affirmative action, and colorblindness

Tuesday, 5/12

-Katznelson, chapter 6

-Brown, et al, "Color-blindness as Color Consciousness" in *Whitewashing Race*

Thursday, 5/14

- Klinkner and Smith, Chapter 9

Week Eight: Race, immigration and coalition-building

Tuesday, 5/19

- Claire Jean Kim, "The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans" *Politics and Society*, Vol 27, #1, March 1999, pgs 105-138.

Thursday, 5/21

-Laura Pulido, "A Day Without Immigrants: The Racial and Class Politics of Immigrant Exclusion"

Week Nine: The 2009 Presidential Election

Tuesday, 5/26

- TBA

Thursday, 5/28

-TBA

Week Ten: The future of race politics

Tuesday, 6/2

-TBA

Thursday, 6/4

Final exam distributed

- course wrap-up

Final exam due in my box by 9am Wednesday, June 10. No late exams will be accepted.